

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This list of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A method of accelerating a plant's response to attack by a plant pathogen, comprising increasing, in at least a part of a plant, a level of luminal binding protein (BiP), wherein said level of BiP is greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions, the method further comprising increasing the level of BiP by over-expressing a protein selected from BiP, calreticulin, and/or the ATPase domain of BiP and an ER retention signal.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein BiP is over-expressed by introducing a chimeric gene into the plant, the chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for BiP and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein BiP is over-expressed by introducing a chimeric gene into the plant, the chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for calreticulin and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

20. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein BiP is over-expressed by introducing a chimeric gene into the plant, the chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for the ATPase domain of BiP, a coding region for an ER retention signal and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein BiP is over-expressed by modification of at least one signal transduction pathway.

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of BiP is at least three times said endogenous level of BiP.

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of BiP is at least five times said endogenous level of BiP.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising treating the plant with salicylic acid.

25. (New) A plant or plant cell produced by the method of claim 1, with an accelerated response time to pathogen attack, the plant or plant cell comprising a level of luminal binding protein (BiP) that is at least three times greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions.

26. (New) A plant or plant cell with a level of luminal binding protein (BiP) that is greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions and exhibits an accelerated response time to pathogen attack, the plant or plant cell comprising a chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for BiP and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

27. (New) A plant or plant cell with a level of luminal binding protein (BiP) that is greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions and exhibits an accelerated response time to pathogen attack, the plant or plant cell comprising a chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for calreticulin and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

28. (New) A plant or plant cell with a level of luminal binding protein (BiP) that is greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions and exhibits an accelerated response time to pathogen attack, the plant or plant cell comprising a chimeric gene comprising a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for the ATPase domain of BiP

and a coding region for an ER retention signal and a 3' untranslated region comprising a stop codon.

29. (New) A plant or plant cell with a level of luminal binding protein (BiP) that is greater than the endogenous level of BiP for said plant in non-stressful conditions and exhibits an accelerated response time to pathogen attack, the plant or plant cell having at least one modification in at least one signal transduction pathway leading to BiP induction.